

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-01 AID-05 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 SCA-01 /088 W

----- 048948

R 141700Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7488

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS BANGKOK 13873

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, PINT, CB, TH

SUBJ: NEW CAMBODIAN REFUGEE EXODUS

REF: FBIS BK 140005Y JULY 75

DEPARTMENT PASS USIA

1. THE "BANGKOK POST" HAS CARRIED FRONT PAGE STORIES JULY 13 AND 14 OF NEW CAMBODIAN REFUGEE MOVEMENTS INTO THAILAND. IT ESTIMATES THAT MORE THAN 2400 NEW REFUGEES HAVE ARRIVED AT THE THAI BORDER TOWN OF ARANYAPRATHET FROM NORTHWESTERN CAMBODIA SINCE APPROXIMATELY JULY 11.

2. THE ARTICLES CONTAIN SEVERAL STORIES OF RECENT ESCAPES. ONE VILLAGER FROM BAN KRUP YAI, 50 KILOMETERS INSIDE CAMBODIA, SAID THAT EVERYONE IN HIS VILLAGE, EVEN THE SICK, HAD THE CHOICE OF WORKING IN THE FIELDS OR BEING KILLED. FINALLY, THE VILLAGERS KILLED THEIR EIGHT KHMER COMMUNIST GUARDS AND ESCAPED, ONLY TO BE AMBUSHED LATER BY KC SOLDIERS WITH IMPORTANT LOSSES OF LIFE.

3. OTHER REFUGEES DESCRIBED TO "POST" REPORTERS THE KC ATTITUDE TOWARD MONKS. THEY CLAIMED THEY WERE THREATENED

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WITH DEATH IF THEY OFFERED FOOD TO MONKS, WHO WERE BEING FORCED

TO WORK IN THE FIELDS. THEY SAID MANY MONKS HAD CHANGED INTO WORK CLOTHES AND FLED. ONE MONK WHO DEPARTED WITH A GROUP OF 108 PEOPLE FROM KUD TAKUA VILLAGE 20 KILOMETERS INSIDE CAMBODIA STATED THAT ALL EIGHT MONKS IN HIS WAT FLED.

4. IN ANOTHER CASE, A SOLDIER WHO WAS AMONG 150 REFUGEES FROM LUNG SANA VILLAGE, DESCRIBED AN AMBUSH IN WHICH THE KC KILLED 100 OF HIS GROUP. HE SAID THE VILLAGERS COULD NOT STAND KC CRUELTY, SINCE THEY COULD BE KILLED AT ANY TIME.

5. COMMENT. REFUGEES TOLD EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO VISITED ARANYAPRATHET JULY 12 THAT THERE WERE THEN SOME 500 NEWLY ARRIVED CAMBODIANS IN THE TOWN. IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE EXODUS OF PEOPLE HAS NOT ABATED, AND THE NEWSPAPER STORIES--EVEN IF THE FIGURES MAY BE SOMEWHAT EXAGGERATED--SERVE TO DEMONSTRATE HOW CRITICAL THE SITUATION REMAINS INSIDE CAMBODIA.
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BANGKO13873
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750243-0082
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750757/aaaabyte.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 STATE A-1343, 75 STATE A-4560
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUN 2003 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <22 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NEW CAMBODIAN REFUGEE EXODUS
TAGS: SREF, PINT, CB, TH
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006